To: Oxfordshire Growth Board
Title of Report: Oxfordshire Local Plans: Progress Report
Status: Open

Executive Summary and Purpose:
To update the Growth Board with progress of Local Plans across the county.

Recommendation(s):
That the Growth Board note the report.

Appendices:
None

Introduction

Cherwell

1. The council are undertaking a Partial Review of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2031, Part 1 to incorporate the Growth Board’s apportionment of Oxford’s unmet housing needs to Cherwell. The proposed review was approved by Council in March 2018 and submitted to the Planning Inspector. A Preliminary Hearing was held in September 2018 and Hearing Sessions took place in February 2019. The Inspector’s Post-Hearings Advice Note was received on 13th July and modifications in response to the advice note are being prepared, the informal submission was sent to the Inspector on 30th September 2019. Subject to the Inspector’s consideration, it is intended that consultation on the proposed modifications will commence at the end of October, with a view to formally submitting the modifications early in the new year. Timeline for completion is uncertain as another Hearing may be required.

Oxford

2. Oxford are preparing a Local Plan to 2036. Oxford City Local Plan 2036 was submitted for examination on 22nd March 2019. Planning Inspectors Jonathan Bore MRTP and Nick Fagan BSc(Hons) DipTP MRTP have been appointed to undertake an independent examination into the soundness of the Oxford City Local Plan. The timetable is therefore now mainly in the control of the appointed Inspectors. An updated Local Development Scheme that includes the estimated timetable to adoption is to be considered by Cabinet in
13th November\textsuperscript{1}. This estimates adoption of the plan in September 2020. This estimate has been informed by average times experienced elsewhere.

3. The Inspectors have asked several questions to which the council has responded. The Inspectors recently published their ‘matters, issues and questions’ that will form the basis of what they wish to explore further at hearings. These are published on the City Council website at: www.oxford.gov.uk/localplanexamination. Alongside the matters, the Inspectors have also published a guidance note to help explain the process, what to expect and key deadlines. The deadline for written statements is 8th November. This is also on the website. The public hearing sessions will take place between 3rd Dec and 19th Dec 2019. We have been advised that hearings will not be held on Mondays or the day of the general election. Hearings will take place at the King’s Centre at Osney Mead Industrial Estate in Oxford.

4. Oxford City has also submitted a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule review for examination. The timeline for examination of this review is likely to follow the Local Plan examination. Mike Hayden BSc(Hons) DipTP MRTPI has been appointed to examine the CIL Charging Schedule Review.

South Oxfordshire

5. South Oxfordshire submitted the Local Plan 2034 for examination on 29 March 2019. Three sets of questions from the two appointed Inspectors were received in October 2019.

6. There was a change to the controlling party at the Council from Conservative to a Coalition. The Local Plan has been a key emerging Council policy that the coalition has wished to review. The future direction for the emerging Local Plan was going to be considered as part of a discussion on the progress towards achieving the resolutions of the 18 July Council on 10 October 2019.

7. However on 9 October 2019 the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government issued a temporary direction on the Council in relation to the emerging Local Plan 2034. The direction was made under the provisions of Section 21A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). This means that the emerging plan has ‘no effect whilst the direction is in force’, this is set out in section 21A(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

8. No work can be progressed in relation to the Local Plan examination. South Oxfordshire will continue their discussions with the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government and hope to seek clarity on the temporary direction.

Vale of White Horse:

9. Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Detailed Policies and Additional Sites (LPP2) was adopted by Vale Council at its meeting on 9th October. This sets out the strategic policies and locations for the agreed quantum of housing to meet Oxford City’s unmet housing need within the district. LPP2 also contains policies for the part of Didcot Garden Town that lies within the district as well as detailed development management policies to complement the Local Plan Part 1, replacing the saved policies of the Local Plan 2011, and allocating additional development sites for housing and other uses.

10. Following the decision to adopt LPP2, there is a 6 week period during which the decision can be legally challenged through the judicial system. This will end at the end of November. LPP2 commits the council a number of SPD’s to be developed upon adoption.

West Oxfordshire

11. The West Oxfordshire Local Plan (2011 – 2031) was formally adopted in September 2018. There are no current plans to commence a review at this point in time.

12. Work has started on a new Area Action Plan (AAP) for the Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village. An initial issues and options consultation took place in summer 2018 and preferred options were published for an 8-week period of consultation from 16 August – 11 October 2019. The final pre-submission draft will be published in early 2020 with a view to adoption by summer 2020.

Financial Implications

13. Financial implications to be considered by each local plan making authority.

Legal Implications

14. Legal implications to be considered by each local plan making authority.

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